

REMARKS

Claims 9-10, 21, 23, and 25-33 are currently pending. Claims 9, 31, and 32 have been amended and claim 16 has been cancelled. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 21, 23, and 25-28 are allowed and claims 16 and 32-33 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable claim 32 has been amended to include the limitations of the base claim (claim 9) from which claim 32 directly depends. As such, claim 32 is allowable. Claim 33 depends from claim 32 and is also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 31 to correct the inconsistency and traverse the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-10 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thurm (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,380).

Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 16, which depended directly from claim 9. As such, claim 9 is allowable. Claims 10 and 29-31 depend from claim 9 and are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-10, 21, 23, and 25-33 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. J. Otterlee', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Otterlee
Reg. No. 48,652

Docket No.: 043210-1541-01
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108

(414) 271-6560